

CURRENT NEWS **EARLY BIRD**

TUESDAY, April 14, 1998

Washington Post

April 14, 1998

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In U.S. Weapons Crusade, Allies Get Scant Mention

By Dana Priest
Washington Post
Staff Writer

During the recent showdown with Iraq, the Clinton administration released CIA reports, used televised props and convened a global town meeting to drive home the point that chemical and biological weapons represent a particularly horrifying menace to the world.

But in their campaign to make people aware of the dangers posed by such weapons, officials have focused almost exclusively on Middle Eastern countries with which the United States has hostile relations. The stockpiles and suspected testing programs of Israel and Egypt, the closest U.S. allies in the region, attract barely a mention.

Administration officials say they publicly address the countries they are the most worried about -- with Iraq at the top of the list -- and that highlighting Israel and Egypt would only hinder Washington's ability to get those countries to eventually sign a peace

accord that would open the door to serious disarmament discussions.

"Naturally we're most concerned about the threat from rogue regimes," said Gary Samore, special assistant to the president and senior director for nonproliferation at the National Security Council, "but the United States also supports universal adherence to the international nonproliferation treaties."

Other arms control experts, however, contend that the United States, by its selective warnings, is undermining its credibility among important Arab states and feeding a cycle of suspicion that has accompanied other failed attempts at slowing the arms race in the Middle East.

"It diminishes the authority we might bring to this area," said Michael Moodie, president of the Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute and a former assistant director at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. "We have to find a way to talk about all the programs."

The Middle East draws par-

ticular scrutiny because it has the world's highest concentration of countries capable of chemical warfare, and because no region combines regional tensions and the proliferation of these weapons with such concrete threats to Americans abroad. About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in the countries and waters of the Persian Gulf and, as recent flare-ups with Iraq have shown, U.S. leaders are willing to send thousands more.

But all the administration's most authoritative public reports on the subject -- the Defense Department's 1997 proliferation study, the CIA's June 1997 report on technology acquisition and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's last annual report in 1996 -- fail to mention Israel and devote only a sentence or two to Egypt.

Documents with limited circulation and interviews with officials who declined to be named at the Defense Department, the National Security Council and other U.S. intelligence sources, as well as assessments published by private organizations, show that both

countries have chemical weapons programs and are believed to have biological ones as well.

One defense intelligence report given limited distribution lists both Israel and Egypt as having "active chemical weapons programs." A handful of research organizations using foreign and U.S. government sources, including the Henry L. Stimson Center, say both Egypt and Israel are "suspected biological weapons proliferants." A once-secret 1990 Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report, which was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by E.J. Hogendoorn of Human Rights Watch, identifies in a photograph (which is blanked out) an Israeli "CW testing facility."

Egypt was the region's first country to develop and employ chemical weapons when it dropped bombs filled with phosgene and mustard against Yemeni forces in the mid-1960s, according to the DIA, and continues to have a stockpile of agents. The 1996 Arms Control and Disarmament Agency report says Egypt developed [biological warfare]

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agents by 1972 and that "it remains likely that the Egyptian capability to conduct [biological warfare] continues to exist."

Saudi Arabia, also a U.S. ally, rarely shows up on any government proliferation assessment. Nevertheless, government officials acknowledge they "suspect" it is developing or already has chemical weapons and has Chinese medium-range CSS-2 ballistic missiles that can carry chemical weapons.

Neither Israel, Egypt nor Saudi Arabia is believed to have filled warheads that could be used at a moment's notice with chemical or biological agents. Iraq is the only country in the Middle East to have done so, according to government arms control experts.

U.S. officials and outside experts say Arab states in the region seek and would maintain a chemical and biological weapons arsenal as a deterrent to another Israeli weapon that Washington does not openly acknowledge: nuclear arms.

While the Arab states that possess chemical and biological weapons may have initially developed them for a variety of reasons, said Seth Carus, a Middle East proliferation specialist at the National Defense University, "it certainly makes sense [for them] to hold on to and to continue to develop those programs as a deterrent to Israel's nuclear program."

In the Middle East, proliferation concerns historically

have taken a back seat to U.S. efforts to move the peace process along. For this reason, U.S. officials "will not point the finger at Egypt and Israel, and they are somewhat muted in what they say about Syria," all crucial players in the bogged-down search for peace between Israel and its neighbors, said Carus.

The stalemate in the Middle East also is preventing states there from signing important international treaties aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction. Egypt, for example, refuses to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) until Israel signs the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which calls for inspections of nuclear facilities and which Israel will not sign. Israel has signed the CWC but the Knesset is unlikely to ratify it.

Clinton's successful all-out push to persuade Congress to pass the CWC was one of his top foreign policy priorities last year, but Congress still has not approved the rules needed to implement most of it. Iran and Saudi Arabia also have ratified the CWC, which requires them to declare the state of their stockpiles and production and to allow inspections that could be as rigorous as those Iraq is undergoing by the United Nations team.

This year Clinton has set his sights on crafting an international verification mechanism for the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. The BWC was ratified by Iran,

Libya and Saudi Arabia and signed by Syria and Egypt, but not Israel.

The U.S. government routinely reports on the status of biological and chemical weapons in countries it considers threats -- Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya.

The detailed information on these countries stands in marked contrast to the vague descriptions offered regarding its allies in the region. The Defense Department's November 1997 proliferation report is an excellent example of this.

It says that all four countries -- the only Middle East countries it describes in its 1997 report -- are "aggressively seeking" nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles. None has a nuclear capability yet and Iraq was the only country with operational biological and chemical missile warheads, the report said.

Here is a brief summary of their abilities, according to the Pentagon report:

Iraq had the most advanced chemical and biological weapons program before the Persian Gulf War. Coalition bombing, an economic trade embargo and U.N. inspections have shut down its production and research facilities. The U.N. team, however, is still searching for conclusive proof that Iraq is not hiding some biological warheads, ingredients for weapons or other data allowing its biological program to continue.

Iran has had a chemical

weapons production program since the Iran-Iraq war. It manufactures and stockpiles blister, blood and choking agents, and is conducting research on nerve agents and biological weapons. Only small quantities of biological agents are believed to exist, but because Iran can make some of the hardware needed to produce them in large quantities, the Pentagon estimates that within 10 years, "Iran's military forces may be able to deliver biological agents effectively."

Iran also has an ambitious missile program and has acquired short-range ballistic missiles.

Syria has a decades-old chemical weapons program and a stockpile of the nerve agent sarin, and it may be trying to develop advanced nerve agents. It "probably" has loaded sarin into bombs and Scud missile warheads that could be deployed outside its borders. It is also "pursuing the development" of a small biological weapons program.

Libya is long on ambition and short on equipment, technology and cash because of a U.N. trade embargo. As a result, it has made no notable advances in acquiring or producing chemical or biological weapons. In the 1980s it produced as much as 100 tons of blister and nerve agents at its Rabta facility, which it closed in 1990. Libya continues to maintain a Scud missile force, although it is aging and suffers from maintenance problems.

Middle East Arsenal

N=Nuclear, C=Chemical, B=Biological

	Seeking	Suspected	Likely	Known	Ballistic missiles
Egypt			C, B		Short-range
Iran	N		B	C	Short-range
Iraq	N			C, B	Short-range
Israel			C, N		Medium-range
Libya	N, B			C	Short-range
Saudi Arabia		C			Medium-range
Syria	B			C	Short-range

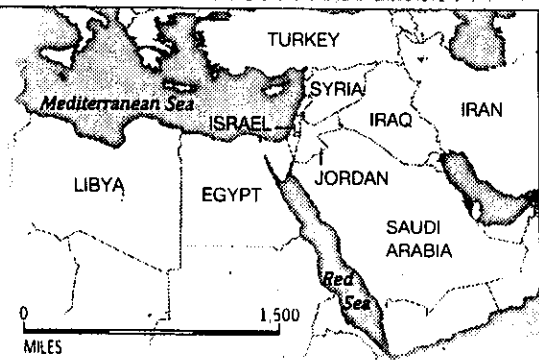
Seeking: Has begun weapon program, but not clear if nation has acquired or produced weapon, based on government estimates, press reports and academic community.

Suspected: There are reports nation has developed or is developing weapon, but not enough evidence to confirm or deny reports.

Likely: Thought to have produced or acquired weapon, but no definitive information openly available in government statements, press reports or academic community.

Known: Nation has admitted possession or use of weapon, or it has been corroborated by U.S. government.

Missile ranges:
Short, 43-620 miles;
Medium, 621-1,860



SOURCES: Congressional Research Service, government intelligence sources

THE WASHINGTON POST

Pentagon Battles Plans for International War Crimes Tribunal

By Eric Schmitt

WASHINGTON -- When the Pentagon urgently called in more than 100 foreign military attaches from embassies here two weeks ago, they expected to be briefed on the next crisis threatening world peace.

Instead, the decorated military aides were surprised by Pentagon warnings of a potential menace to their troops that most had never considered: the proposed International Criminal Court, scheduled to be established as a permanent tribunal to try tyrants like Pol Pot for gross human rights abuses or Saddam Hussein for war crimes.

The Pentagon warned the attaches that if the court was set up and was not properly restrained, it could target their own soldiers -- particularly when they were acting as peacekeepers -- and subject them to frivolous or politically motivated investigations by a rogue prosecutor or an overzealous tribunal.

"It was unusual," a seasoned Western military officer said of the 30-minute briefing he attended.

After the meetings, held on March 31 and April 1, several of the attaches dashed off urgent messages to their superiors back home, which in turn set off alarms up the chains of command.

For nearly four years, the United States has supported the efforts of diplomats at the United Nations and their painstaking plans to create an International Criminal Court.

Now that it is finally within reach -- all 185 members of the United Nations will be invited to a conference in Rome in June to establish the first permanent International Criminal Court by statute -- the United

States is pressing to limit the tribunal's authority and independence.

While President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright have endorsed the idea of a court, they have given their blessing to the Pentagon to become the attack dog in the United States' campaign to create a court more to Washington's liking.

The Pentagon is pitted against human rights advocates who contend that the American military establishment has set off an unnecessary uproar that may ultimately weaken efforts to create the first permanent world tribunal to deal with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. It would replace ad hoc tribunals like those set up for Rwanda and the Balkans.

"An unintended result of all this is that a number of defense ministers are raising unfounded concerns about the project," said Christopher Keith Hall, a legal adviser for Amnesty International in London.

A three-page memorandum passed out to the attaches at the Pentagon briefings says: "The U.S. is committed to the successful establishment of a court. But we are also intent on avoiding the creation of the wrong kind of court."

The wrong court, in the view of the administration and particularly the Pentagon, would put tiny players on the world stage like Benin or Trinidad and Tobago on an equal footing with the United States. And that, they fear, could lead to unfounded accusations against soldiers assigned as peacekeepers in difficult situations.

"They really wanted to reinforce to us the idea, 'Do you know this is going on?'" said a Western military attache who

attended the Pentagon briefing.

A European diplomat at the same meeting said, "It was a lobbying effort; clearly it was."

The Pentagon also sent a senior team to Europe, where the officials hopped from London to Paris to Brussels to Rome to Bonn, impressing top military brass in each capital with the American arguments.

Human rights advocates say the Pentagon's scare campaign may yield dangerous, unintended consequences.

"What the people at the Pentagon didn't realize is that they went after a fly with a shotgun," said Cherif Bassiouni, a law professor at De Paul University in Chicago and deputy chairman of the United Nations committee that prepared the draft text that will be the centerpiece of the conference in Rome.

"The attaches got scared, sent home cables and got everyone in a tizzy," Bassiouni said. "What the Pentagon has done may undermine the policy established by the president."

But Pentagon officials deny using any pressure tactics and insist that no foreign military official has complained.

"It was not lobbying; there was no arm-twisting -- it was awareness-raising," Frederick C. Smith, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, said of the briefings.

While the Defense Department has originated many of the Clinton administration's reservations about the court, Pentagon officials fear that their counterparts in foreign militaries have been left out of similar discussions abroad.

"It became apparent to us in the Pentagon that other ministries of defense and senior military officials have not been involved in the negotiations," said Smith, who headed the

Pentagon team that visited Europe.

So with the approval of the chief American negotiator, David Scheffer of the State Department, the Pentagon started its charm blitzkrieg.

The main artillery has been the sobering talks at the Pentagon given by Franklin Kramer, an assistant secretary of defense, and Christopher Ryder, a senior international lawyer at the Defense Department.

In the three-page memorandum, the Pentagon warned other militaries against independent prosecutors with "unbridled discretion to start investigations" and contended that "some delegations have supported overly broad and vague definitions of war crimes."

"We strongly recommend that you take an active interest in the negotiations regarding an international criminal court," the paper said.

Supporters of the court say the concerns of the Pentagon and the administration are overstated.

"The administration's position is unnecessary," said Morton Halperin, a former Pentagon official who is now senior vice president of the Twentieth Century Fund, a public policy foundation. "The draft as it now exists already provides assurances that soldiers from the U.S. and other countries with functioning judicial systems would not be brought before this court."

But the Pentagon has a key ally in the Senate, which must approve U.S. membership in the court. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who heads the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, vowed last month that any international criminal court would be "dead on arrival" in the Senate unless Washington has veto power over it.

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U.S. firms' tips boosted Chinese missile program

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two U.S. high-technology companies shared important missile development information with China that aided Beijing's long-range strategic rockets, Clinton administration officials said yesterday.

The Justice Department launched an investigation last year into whether scientists from Hughes Electronics Corp. and Loral Space & Communications Ltd. improperly turned over missile data analyzing a failed Chinese space launch that may have given the Chinese a "significant" advance on their missiles, said the officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that the Pentagon produced a classified report on the Chinese missile transfers in May that concluded the transfer probably damaged U.S. national security.

"They concluded that it could possibly have helped China improve its missiles," said a defense official. "The issue is whether the companies should have requested an export license for information they may have discussed with the Chinese."

At the State Department, spokesman James P. Rubin said the matter is under investigation by the Justice Department.

"And one of the issues that is germane is the extent to which anything might or might not have harmed the national security," he said.

Details of the missile-technology transfer were reported yes-

terday by the New York Times and later confirmed by U.S. officials.

According to the officials, the Justice investigation was undermined earlier this year when the Clinton administration approved a waiver for Loral to export the same missile guidance technology to China. Loral's chairman, Bernard Schwartz, was the largest personal donor to the Democratic Party last year.

Details of the missile-technology-transfer probe follows the disclosure of a secret administration plan to invite China to become a formal member of the 29-nation Missile Technology Control Regime and allow Beijing access to missile-related U.S. exports it has been denied since sanctions were imposed after the 1989 massacre of demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

The U.S. scientists gave the information to China as part of an investigation into the Feb. 16, 1996, explosion during the Chinese launch of a Loral satellite that cost the company \$200 million, the officials said.

As part of a 200-page accident assessment, the U.S. companies identified the cause of the launch malfunction as an electrical flaw in the missile's flight-control system.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, California Republican, said the Science subcommittee on space that he heads is investigating the matter. "Why should we be helping the Chinese build missiles?" he said recently. "Chinese missiles blowing up on the launch pad is a good

thing."

The assessment also provided the Chinese with sensitive information that could help them improve rocket guidance and control systems, the officials said.

China's space launchers are manufactured by the same company that produces key components of its strategic nuclear missiles, Great Wall Industries, according to the officials. Any space-launch information provided to the Chinese firm can be easily applied to the strategic missiles, including two new nuclear missiles currently in development, they said.

Mr. Rubin said the question of allowing U.S. firms to launch satellites on Chinese boosters is "obviously a very important question" affecting U.S. satellite launch capabilities and efforts to "prevent unauthorized leakage of know-how or technology during the course of those launches."

"We have very, very strong safeguards programs and we work very hard to make sure that those safeguards are put in effect," Mr. Rubin said. "We've maintained a very strict policy, including these strong safeguards, to prevent the unauthorized transfer of sensitive missile technology to China."

A recent U.S.-China agreement on satellite technology specifically bars U.S. companies from providing assistance to China "with respect to the design, development, operation, maintenance, modification or repair of launch vehicles," he said.

Washington Post

April 14, 1998

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U.N. Teams Find No Sign of Iraqi Nuclear Arms

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post
Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, April 13—U.N. weapons experts said today their most recent inspections of sites in Iraq, including formerly off-limits presidential buildings, have revealed no signs that Iraq possesses prohibited nuclear weapons or materiel.

These findings by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seemed likely to rekindle debate about whether

the Security Council should conclude that Iraq has complied with its orders, issued after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, to get rid of its nuclear warfare program. Elimination of Iraq's programs to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is a precondition for ending the crippling economic sanctions the U.N. imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Commission, meanwhile, issued a report charging that President Saddam Hussein's government contin-

ues to engage in widespread human rights violations, including summary executions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and persecution of ethnic and religious minorities such as the Kurds.

The report by Max van der Stoep, a former foreign minister of the Netherlands, calls on the United Nations to make every effort to force Iraqi authorities to behave in accordance with international standards of law and respect for individual rights. But, the report added, the Iraqi government refuses to cooperate with the commission

and rejects its findings.

The most "alarming problem," the report said, involves the "food situation affecting children, who suffer from widespread malnutrition and even starvation." It rejects Baghdad's contention that this is solely the fault of the sanctions and says that much of the blame rests with the Iraqi government's attempts to control food distribution for internal political purposes and its five-year delay in accepting a U.N. humanitarian program that permits limited oil sales to generate funds for food and medicine.

The IAEA's report on weapons sites comes at a time

when the United Nations and Iraq have recently stepped back from a military confrontation over weapons searches and are working uneasily toward a new understanding about future searches. At issue is Iraq's impatience over the continuing sanctions and the Security Council's edict that the embargo cannot be lifted until Baghdad has made a "full, final and complete disclosure" about what has been done to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction.

The council created the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) to pursue questions about Iraq's missiles and chemical and biological programs, while the IAEA has had

responsibility for nuclear matters. The confrontation over the United Nations' right to inspect the presidential palaces was resolved, at least temporarily, when Secretary General Kofi Annan went to Baghdad and negotiated with Saddam Hussein an agreement for UNSCOM and the IAEA to survey the palaces accompanied by diplomats.

While UNSCOM has charged that Iraq repeatedly has lied and sought to conceal information about chemical and biological programs, the IAEA has said for more than a year that it has found no evidence of nuclear weapons or the means to produce them within Iraq. Today, the IAEA went further, saying: "Iraq has satisfactorily

completed its undertaking to produce a consolidated version of its full, final and complete declaration of its clandestine nuclear program."

That has led some Security Council members, including France, Russia and Egypt, which advocate flexibility in dealing with Iraq, to argue that the "nuclear file" should be closed with a finding that Iraq has done away with its nuclear programs and no longer requires close inspection in that area. Supporters of such a move contend that it would be an incentive for Iraq to cooperate more closely with the United Nations.

However, the idea is fiercely opposed by the United

States, which says that the IAEA still is unable to say definitively that Iraq's nuclear weapons have been eliminated. In the U.S. view, there should be no talk of lifting sanctions until a judgment can be made about all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, including the chemical and biological arms.

The IAEA report covers 211 inspections, mostly of a surprise nature, that were conducted at 93 locations between Oct. 1, 1997, and the beginning of this month. That included participation by IAEA inspectors with UNSCOM officials and diplomats in the searches of eight presidential palaces that were carried out from March 26 to April 3.

New York Times

April 14, 1998

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Iraq Said to Kill 1,500 in Political Moves

By Barbara Crossette

UNITED NATIONS -- The government of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has executed at least 1,500 people in the last year mostly for political reasons, a former Dutch foreign minister has concluded in a report to be presented on Tuesday to the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Most of the deaths occurred during a "prison-cleansing campaign" in November and December ordered by Saddam's younger son, Qusay. He directs Iraq's Special Security Organization, one of a number of armed intelligence agencies that sustain an atmosphere of terror in Iraq, diplomats based there say.

The report says that after Qusay Hussein's visit to one prison, Abu Gharib, large numbers of prisoners condemned to death or to sentences of 15 years or more were shot, hanged or electrocuted there and in other prisons. The families of those shot were forced to pay for the bullets used before they could claim the bodies.

The report was prepared by Max van der Stoel, former foreign minister of the Netherlands, for the Human Rights Commission. It is in line with charges that Iraq exiles have been leveling against Saddam's administration in recent months.

Reporting on human rights issues is virtually nonexistent inside Iraq, where the news media are controlled and opposition to the president and his family is met with draconian measures -- including assassination and imprisonment without fair trial.

This report follows a separate study for the United Nations in March that concluded that Iraq leads the world in forced disappearances, with 16,000 people reported missing in the last decade.

The Clinton administration has made an improvement in Iraq's human rights record a prerequisite to the lifting of economic sanctions imposed in 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait -- along with a demonstrable end to prohibited weapons programs.

The United States is likely to face pressures in the U.N. Security Council, though, by the end of this month to reward Iraq for what appears to be a new spirit of cooperation with arms inspections.

Van der Stoel, who holds the title of United Nations Special Rapporteur on Iraq, has been refused entry to the country since 1992. His survey, completed last month, is based on reports and documents smuggled out of Iraq as well as on information compiled from a number of sources by exiled Iraqi opposition groups. Van der Stoel also collected infor-

mation in Turkey because information reaches that country through Iraqi Kurds in the border area.

His report paints a picture of persistent persecutions of the Kurds, of the Shiite tribes in the southern marshes and Turkomans and other ethnic or religious groups. It describes a relentless pursuit of all political critics or would-be critics.

Among the instances of summary executions that he cited were the killings in October of 14 military officers and politicians who were accused of planning an attempt on Saddam's life.

In another instance he cited, 23 people were sentenced to death, among them three military officers charged with "maneuvering" against the government.

He received reports of the executions of army deserters, Islamic activists, Shiite tribe members and people connected with opposition groups that maintain offices in exile -- including nine people with ties to a group called the Iraqi National Council and seven people associated with another group, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

As with other U.N. human rights investigators, Van der Stoel guards his sources of information to protect them from retaliation. His work is given considerable credibility because he has been reporting on

Iraq since the Persian Gulf war.

"Iraqi law imposes life imprisonment and, in certain cases, death on anyone insulting the president," the report says. It notes that the Iraqi government explanation is that officials distinguish between criticism and insult, reserving death for the latter.

Van der Stoel said he found this distinction "neither convincing in theory nor reflective of the factual situation in Iraq."

Membership in political parties not officially working with the governing Baath Party is punishable by death, the report says. And crimes against property can also bring the death penalty or in some cases disfigurement. Iraqi thieves may be branded, or limbs may be amputated, or both. In December, Iraq executed four Jordanian students who had smuggled \$850 in auto parts into the country.

In addition to information about executions, the report details a continuing Iraqi policy of forcibly resettling people belonging to ethnic minorities -- especially Kurds and Turkoman people in Kirkuk, north of Baghdad -- and of moving Arabs into that region. Van der Stoel says Arabs are given incentives of money and apartments to settle in Kirkuk.

"Families who are perceived to be opposed to the regime, families who have relatives outside Iraq or in southern Iraq and those who have relatives in detention or executed are said

to be the first targets of forced displacement," the report said. It added that officials from the Baath Party are given the power to move targeted families, often with as little as 24 hours' notice.

On Monday in Baghdad, the official government newspaper Al Qadissiya called Van der Stoel an agent of American intelligence and Zionism who had been ordered "to spread lies and put out idiotic reports that no one will take seriously."

Iraq has told U.N. commit-

tees that it is fighting a rising crime wave brought on by sanctions. The Van der Stoel report challenges that explanation and also criticizes Iraq for not accepting for more than four years a Security Council plan allowing the limited sale of oil to raise money for food and medicine.

"Instead, the government of Iraq decided to rely only on domestic production to meet the humanitarian needs of its people -- preferring to let inno-

cent people suffer while the government maneuvered to get sanctions lifted," the report says.

In another document issued on Monday, the International Atomic Energy Agency submitted a six-month report on investigations into Iraq's nuclear program that found "no indication of prohibited materials, equipment or activities."

The Atomic Energy Agency's report said its monitoring activities would not only continue but would also be

expanded and upgraded with new technology.

But the lack of any damaging new findings is likely to lead to another attempt by Russia and possibly by France and China as well to close the file on Iraq's nuclear case. Under requirements of the U.N. Security Council, all prohibited Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons must be destroyed or accounted for, along with long-range missile delivery systems.

Baltimore Sun

April 14, 1998

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Yeltsin seeks OK on altered START treaty

Amended missiles pact
expected to be approved

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin submitted an amended version of the long-stalled START

II arms control treaty to parliament yesterday, and this time it seemed likely to pass.

The treaty, signed by Yeltsin and President Clinton in 1993, would halve the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia from about 6,000 each to no more than 3,500 each.

The U.S. Senate ratified it in 1996, but the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, has refused to approve it. However, under accords signed in New York last fall, Russia would have five additional years, until the end of 2007, to destroy its long-range missiles. Parliamentary leaders now say they expect the treaty to pass.

Duma Speaker Gennady Selez-

nyov and Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs, said they were optimistic that ratification would occur before summer.

Washington has said it wants the treaty ratified before Clinton next holds a summit with Yeltsin, although it has stopped short of making approval a formal condition for such a meeting. No date as been set for a summit.

Some Russian parliamentarians balk at the cost of the cuts and fear the United States is developing new missile defense systems that could violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. Washington denies the allegations.

In resubmitting the START agreement, Yeltsin said it "corresponds to the interests of Russia."

Defense Daily

April 14, 1998

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PENTAGON TO MEET WITH ALLIES ON COMPUTER SECURITY

By Frank Wolfe

As the Pentagon works to protect its computer networks from attack, it plans to hold meetings with NATO allies to insure any solutions are shared.

Next month, Pentagon officials are to travel to a NATO Command, Control and Communications (C³) Working Group meeting to exchange ideas on the buttressing of defense communications. Currently, 95 percent of Pentagon communications are carried over public channels like the Internet.

The meeting follows Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre's visit to NATO allies in February to view their information assurance efforts (*Defense Daily*, March 24). His visit--and the Pentagon's accelerated efforts to protect its computer networks--followed a systematic attack by hackers on 12 unclassified defense systems (*Defense Daily*, Feb. 26).

One of the "most dangerous" computer vulnerabilities is someone who "spoofs" a legitimate user and sends an encrypted false message to another, a senior Pentagon official told *Defense Daily* yesterday.

Because of this threat, the Pentagon is looking at various systems of "certificate authority." The latter act as digital notary publics to validate digital certificates exchanged by computer users. In so doing, the "certificate authority" verifies the identity of computer users.

Prototype Project in Works

The Pentagon is working on a prototype project in Defense Travel Region 6, which includes Mid-western states, to develop such a system. In addition, the federal government has just completed a "key recovery demonstration project" (KRDP). The project was composed of 13 separate agency efforts, including ones by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Patent Office.

The projects had different methods of "certificate authority" and "key recovery." The latter allows a user or third party to gain access to a private key that is lost or stolen in order to decrypt information.

The Pentagon plans to apply lessons learned from these 13 programs to its own computer security efforts. A broadly used type of

commercial certificate standard, X509B3, may become the DoD standard as well, the Pentagon official said.

"That's a very common standard," the official said. "I think if the marketplace winds up using it, we will to."

Harnessing a common NATO certificate standard--and information assurance practices--is important, the official said. "We have been used to conducting this interoperability (between NATO countries) over dedicated military circuits. The combination of commercial pressures and our own budget limitations are going to move our command and control increasingly to Internet based solutions," the official said.

The means of protecting such open lines of communication has to be "internationally interoperable and trustworthy," the official said. "So when the United Kingdom gives us a certificate, and we give them one, we can each have confidence that the end user is who they say they are."

The biggest challenge for protecting data networks while maintaining interoperability between NATO allies is "getting the policy right," the official said.

"There are technological pieces to it, but there's never going to be a technological silver bullet for this."

Training employees how to spot computer intrusions and how to report them are big parts of such a policy.

If not taught, "you have massive holes in your security program no matter how good your technology is," the official said.

Even the technology piece won't be easy for the Pentagon, which is facing a massive Year 2000 computer code fix and having to make tradeoffs with other computer priorities, like upgrading hardware.

In addition, the Pentagon is facing a "brain drain" as retiring service personnel see big paychecks in the commercial information technology sector, the official said.

"We are not going to have to work just the technology policy piece," the official said. "We also have to work the personnel piece and develop career paths for computer security professionals. We've got to have some partnering technologies with the private sector so that if we do lose these people we can find a way to get some of them back."

The Pentagon may also want to have a process in place to take advantage of Guard and Reserve forces who have computer experience, the official said.

Ind. disposal firm reverses offer to accept Calif. napalm stockpile

Baltimore Sun April 14, 1998 Pg. 6

Substance was en route when company backed out

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLBROOK, Calif. — Two days after a train carrying Vietnam War-era napalm left this rural town for Indiana, the president of the disposal company that had agreed to receive it said yesterday that he wants to back out.

"Though we still feel it's the right environmental thing to do and that we're the right company to do it, we're just not big enough to withstand this political pres-

sure," Robert Campbell, president of Pollution Control Industries Inc. in East Chicago, Ind., told *The Post-Tribune* in Gary, Ind.

In a letter yesterday to the Navy and Battelle Memorial Institute, the primary contractor, PCI attorney Steven Jay Katz said: "PCI hereby advises Battelle to cease making any further shipments and to recall all shipments already made."

In another letter dated Friday, the day before the train carrying the napalm departed, Katz wrote that because the parties had not reached agreement on all matters, "you are instructed not to ship until such time as all matters are re-

solved."

Messages left at the company's offices in East Chicago and with two spokesmen in Chicago were not returned to the Associated Press last night. Several calls to a Navy environmental public affairs officer in San Diego also were not returned.

Lt. Cmdr. Jon Smith of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Alexandria, Va., said he only could confirm that PCI sent a letter to Battelle.

The nation's supply of Vietnam War-era napalm was stored in Fallbrook in Southern California for decades. Some of it began a journey to Indiana on Saturday to be used as fuel for cement kilns.

After long legal delays, the two-year process of moving the jellied gasoline mixture by train began quietly over Easter weekend.

Baltimore Sun April 14, 1998 Pg. 10

Cohen's Mideast trip covers five nations in six days

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William S. Cohen leaves Thursday for the Middle East to demonstrate U.S. support for Israel's security and the struggling peace process and to shore up regional cooperation for containing

Iraq.

During his six-day trip — including one-day stops each in Jordan, Egypt and Israel — Cohen also will visit Turkey and Greece to discuss their dispute over Cyprus and NATO members' military modernization.

The defense secretary originally planned a Middle East trip in December, but canceled when the Iraq crisis reached a boiling point.

Wall Street Journal

April 14, 1998 Pg. 1

Russia won't attend tomorrow's G-7 meeting in Washington to protest its exclusion from some talks. Meanwhile, Moscow plans \$2.8 billion more in IMF borrowing, signaling continued reforms despite a government shake-up.

Colombian troops battled a leftist rebel band believed holding several hostages, including three Americans, seized near Bogota three weeks ago. About 22 soldiers and rebels have died. The army called in airstrikes, but insisted hostages will be safe.

Background checks spur protests

3 agencies refuse phone procedure

By Thomas Hargrove
SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

Civil war has erupted among U.S. intelligence and military agencies following policy changes at the Defense Security Service over how to conduct background checks before allowing access to secret information and equipment.

The Air Force, National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency recently instructed their employees not to cooperate with the simplified security checks that the service instituted after recent federal downsizing policies cut more than 600 Defense Security Service agents.

At issue are new agency instructions to the 1,300 remaining investigators that they conduct as many security investigations by telephone as possible in a program the agents contemptuously call "Operation Phone to the Bone."

The agency — charged with providing security clearances for tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilian con-

tractors to the military — used to routinely conduct sensitive interviews in person.

"Many people are being cleared that shouldn't be because we have become nothing more than telemarketers instead of investigators," an agent said under the condition of anonymity.

Managers at the Defense Security Service, headquartered in Alexandria, are directing all questions to the Pentagon. There Douglas Perritt, Defense Department principal director for information warfare, security and counterintelligence said, "Telephonic interviews have been allowed as a way of doing business for years at DSS, but they have tended to be the exception rather than the rule."

Mr. Perritt said Pentagon officials last week hosted a meeting of defense security agencies to address the dispute.

The Defense Security Service leadership has conceded to its agents that the agency is tens of thousands of cases behind in completing investigations and routine periodic reinvestigations of people with access to top secrets. Managers have pushed agents to clear up the backlog of cases in a program

officially called "Operation Get Well, Stay Well."

DSS agents throughout the country have complained that their investigations have been "dumbed down." But it is the increasing phone use that has focused opposition within the Pentagon.

Air Force leaders wrote in a memo circulated and telexed late last month:

"The Air Force believes this practice is inappropriate for legal and privacy reasons. . . . Any requests by DSS investigators to conduct an interview over the phone should be denied."

On Feb. 27, Defense Intelligence Agency Chief of Staff Barbara A. Duckworth instructed her staff that they "may decline any request for a telephonic interview [with DSS agents] since releasing personal information related to background investigations over the telephone has the potential of affecting privacy or other issue of security concern."

Leaders at the National Security Agency, which oversees U.S. satellite and telecommunications intelligence gathering, issued a similar directive about the same time as the Air Force's order.

Washington
Times
April 14, 1998
Pg. 6

USA Today

April 14, 1998

Pg. 2

Sailing of warship is opposed

Ex-commanders: 'Old Ironsides' too feeble

Reuters

BOSTON — Five former commanders of the USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship, have joined forces to protest plans by the U.S. Navy to sail the 200-year-old vessel in the open ocean this summer.

The officers have scheduled a news conference for today at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston, where the Constitution is berthed, to state their opposition to the planned trip to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, in August.

The commanders say the ship, known as "Old Ironsides" since its oak hull withstood British cannon fire in the War of 1812, is too frail to make the trip.

The officers "will point out why, given her present condition, neither

towing nor sailing 'Old Ironsides' in the open ocean can be considered safe or prudent," the press release says.

Commander Robert Gillen, captain of the frigate from 1978 to 1980, says the ship is safe to sail only in Boston's protected harbor, where it is one of the city's top tourist attractions.

"I firmly believe that it can be sailed into perpetuity in and around Boston Harbor," he says.

Navy officials in Boston declined to comment.

After a four-year, \$12 million res-

toration, the Constitution set sail last summer for the first time in more than a century in the calm waters of Massachusetts Bay.

Launched in 1797, the ship barely escaped the scrap yard in the years after its victories over British ships in the War of 1812.

It is one of the most famous U.S. naval vessels.

About 15% of the 44-gun frigate, most of it below the waterline, is original.

Much of it was rebuilt in the last century.

Washington Times April 14, 1998 Pg. 6

Clinton to visit Berlin in May

President Clinton will travel to Berlin in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Western Allies' airlift to West Berlin, the

White House said yesterday.

Berlin is planning a big party to mark the 50th anniversary of the yearlong airlift, through which the Allies supplied West Berlin after Soviet forces cut off ground routes to the city in 1948.

Wall Street Journal April 14, 1998

China Syndrome

President Clinton approved the transfer of missile guidance technology to China at the behest of the largest personal contributor to the Democratic Party. He granted the needed waiver despite an ongoing Department of Justice criminal investigation of the same company's earlier transfer of similar technology: a Pentagon study concluding that in the earlier episode "United States national security has been harmed."

That is the essence of a report yesterday by Jeff Gerth of the New York Times (who also reported the original Whitewater story in 1992) concerning satellite launch technology provided by Loral Space and Communications and Hughes Electronics, a subsidiary of General Motors. Loral Chairman Bernard L. Schwartz topped the personal contributions list in 1997; his 1994 trip to China with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown was quickly followed by a memo to the President from Harold Ickes saying Mr. Schwartz "is prepared to do anything he can for the Administration." Lobbying jointly with Hughes Chairman C. Michael Armstrong, who has gone on to head AT&T, Mr. Schwartz succeeded in softening licensing requirements for export of guidance technology to China.

At one level, this is another round in ongoing disputes over technology exports. In the commercial space satellite business, Loral and Hughes want to use low-cost Chinese launch capability, and of course want the launches to succeed. But the technology they have provided for this purpose will help make military missiles more accurate. The usual arguments revolve around the military importance of the technology, the size of the commercial interests and, probably most significant, whether the same technology is available elsewhere. Within the government, there are nearly always legitimate arguments on both sides of such issues.

Expectations that a President will resolve such issues on the merits, though, have been deeply muddled by the ongoing controversy over the Clinton contributions scandal and Chinese money. The Justice Department is reportedly upset that Mr. Clinton's waiver decision undermined its criminal probe. Perhaps, but this is the same Justice Department that has repeatedly refused to appoint an independent counsel to investigate the Chinese connection. The Gerth story is only the latest reminder that the time for an independent counsel is long past. After all, consider the record:

Senator Fred Thompson's Governmental Affairs Committee has been in a running controversy over illicit Chinese political contributions. In March it voted out a report identifying six individuals in the campaign finance mess with ties to Beijing--Charlie Trie, John Huang, James and Mochtar Riady, Maria Hsia and Ted Sioeng. The Riadys "had a long-term relationship with a Chinese intelligence agency," the report noted. Ms. Hsia, the central figure in Al Gore's Hsi Lai Temple fund-raiser, was identified as an "agent of the Chinese government."

The Justice Department campaign finance probe has secured indictments of Mr. Trie and Ms. Hsia, and a plea agreement with Democratic Party fund-raiser Johnny Chung on various schemes to funnel money into the 1996 campaign. But these are low-level actions, and there is no sign that they will move the inquiry up the food chain in either Washington or Beijing.

In February 1996, Mr. Trie played White House escort for Wang Jun, head of China's main overseas investment operation, Citic (China International Trust & Investment Corp.). Mr. Wang is also president of China Poly Group Corp., an arms-trading company owned by the People's Liberation Army and connected to military research and development including strategic missile programs.

More than \$1 million of the money Mr. Trie funneled into the Clinton campaign came from mysterious Macau entrepreneur Ng Lap Seng. Mr. Ng, our Micah Morrison reported in March, runs a

Macau nightclub frequented by officers of the PLA, as well as the Wo On Lok triad crime syndicate. In January, Mr. Ng was rewarded by Beijing with an appointment to the Chinese People's Consultative Conference in the capital; two other Macau figures who have visited with President Clinton, casino magnate Stanley Ho and Macau legislator Chen Kai-kit, received the same honor.

Ted Sioeng, another campaign contributor named in the Thompson report, turned up back in Asia in the company of Cambodian tycoon Theng Bunma, who has been barred from entering the United States because of drug trafficking. And then there is John Huang, the former Riady employee with a high-level security clearance who spent 18 months reading raw intelligence data while working as a Commerce Department official and then transferred to the Democratic National Committee after a meeting with the President and others on September 13, 1995.

In all of these contacts, Mr. Clinton was interested in campaign contributions; the question is what the other side wanted. The significance of the Gerth report is that it may have not been merely face-time or intelligence on commercial negotiations; national security issues were also in play. If the Justice Department is really alarmed by the President undercutting an investigation, it's time for Attorney General Janet Reno to do the right thing in chartering an independent counsel to take over the whole contributions issue.

Fayetteville (NC) Observer-Times
April 12, 1998

Rally Behind Cohen

Public's stake is on the side of base-closings

Five years ago, Charleston heard the news that the big base-closing bogeyman was on its way. Everybody moaned about an impending economic catastrophe, certain that the loss of the Naval shipyard and station and 22,000 federal jobs would be the end of the former birthplace of the Confederacy.

Instead, a reporter for the Baltimore Sun finds Charleston's economy humming faster than ever.

The local congressman who fought fiercely against the base-closing told the reporter:

"Instead of things going to hell, we're experiencing a boom. Base closure has worked out well for us."

Charleston's story is repeated in one way or another across the country wherever unneeded military installations are being converted from tax-eaters to tax-paying economic assets.

That is why the public ought to be marching behind Secretary of Defense William Cohen in his campaign to force Congress into another round of closings.

Since 1988, the Pentagon has been able to close 97 of 495 installations and consolidate hundreds of others. The savings come to at least \$5.6 billion a year in military dollars. That, of course, doesn't count the economic benefits flowing to communities where installations have been converted to other uses.

Cohen is asking another two rounds, the first beginning in 2001 and the second in 2005.

The closings would substantially reduce the 27 percent excess capacity identified by Pentagon officials. By the end of the first decade of the 21st century, such sound management could free as much as \$20 billion for appropriations that would enhance the genuine military muscle of the country.

A major part of that muscle is the array of 21st-century Army and Air Force power at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. The readiness and well-being of these soldiers and airmen who stand in the front rank of the country's military posture should not be mortgaged to the excess baggage of installations with little or no reason to exist.

The sort of long-range management proposed by Cohen is foreign to many in Congress, who look at their two- or six-year

election cycles and treat military installations as so much campaign largess.

Nonetheless, the future of the U.S. military is too vital for Cohen not to press for base closings that clearly would enhance that future. The American public should rally to his effort.

Palestinian police arrested at least 12 university students accused of supporting Hamas, and have questioned dozens of others in a crackdown on the Muslim militant group. The moves are a further sign of a deepening power struggle after the killing of the chief Hamas bomb maker on March 29.

Wall Street Journal
April 14, 1998
Pg. 1

New York Times

April 14, 1998

No Army Witch Hunt

To the Editor:

Andrew Sullivan (Op-Ed, April 9) argues that the increased rate of military discharges for homosexuality shows that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy is a failure.

Mr. Sullivan asserts that the 563 violations of the policy in 1997 are largely the result of a witch hunt by commanders.

Let me offer a more benign hypothesis. Nearly all recruits are in their late teens or early twenties. It is possible that some are not sure of their sexual orientation until after they enter the service. The fact that almost all discharges for homosexuality occur in the first term of enlistment gives some credence to this explanation.

dence to this explanation.

It would be interesting to compare the "coming out" rate in the military with that on college campuses. It is possible that 563 discharges in one year for 1.4 million service members is low.

CHARLES MOSKOS

Evanston, Ill., April 12, 1998

The writer is a professor of sociology at Northwestern University.

Editor's Note: The op-ed referred to appeared in the *Current News Early Bird*, April 9, 1998, Pg. 11.

European Stars & Stripes

April 14, 1998

Pg. 4

Disciplinary hearing scheduled for pilots in Italy ski-lift tragedy

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — The first session of the disciplinary hearing for four U.S. Marines whose jet severed the cable of an Italian cable car, sending 20 people hurtling to their deaths, will be held Monday.

The session will deal only

with administrative matters, and no evidence will be presented, the Marine Corps said. Lt. Col. Ronald L. Rodgers, the military judge who will hear the case, will review the crew's rights and schedule future sessions when evidence will be presented.

Rodgers' recommendations

will be passed on to Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, the commander of the U.S. Marines in the Atlantic. He will decide whether the proceedings might proceed to a court-martial.

Charged in the deaths are Capt. Richard J. Ashby, 30, of Mission Viejo, Calif.; Capt. Joseph P. Schweitzer, 30, of

Westbury, N.Y.; Capt. William L. Raney II, 26, of Englewood, Colo.; and Capt. Chandler P. Seagraves, 28, of Ninevah, Ind.

They face charges of involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide, damage to military property, damage to private property and dereliction of duty.

In Brief

Napalm Shipped to Disposal Site

Washington Post

April 14, 1998

Pg. 13

The Navy has sent its first shipment of Vietnam War-era napalm to a disposal site halfway across the country.

As 12,000 gallons moved slowly by train yesterday, two House members from California tried to assure the public that the shipment was safe and the removal would be speedy.

"When you say the word 'napalm,' people are scared," Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R) said. "But you can actually throw a hand grenade into this napalm and it would not ignite."

More than 23 million pounds of the jellied gasoline mixture has been stored since the war at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Facility, about 60 miles north of San Diego.

The first shipment -- a train

carrying two 6,000-gallon containers of the napalm -- departed Saturday. The train was expected to reach Pollution Control Industries in East Chicago, Ind., in two weeks. PCI will recycle the napalm into fuel.

"This is the beginning of the final phase of this project, which has had safety as a priority and is the most responsible method of recycling the canisters," said Lt. Cmdr. Jon Smith, a spokesman at the Naval Facilities Engineering Headquarters in Alexandria.

It was expected to take two years and \$24 million to transport all the napalm stored at Fallbrook. Seventeen companies will help dispose in the recycling plan, which ends

years of failed removal efforts for what is considered old ordnance.

Critics worried that the fuel -- used in incendiary bombing runs in the Vietnam War -- would spill and burn along the route or at disposal sites.

But Cunningham and fellow California Republican Rep. Ron Packard insisted that napalm was safer to transport than many fuels routinely shipped because certain chemical agents that would cause it to ignite were extracted.

The Navy said routes will vary by rail, but shipments were expected to pass through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas,

Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

The Navy delayed the first shipment by a month after PCI notified the Environmental Protection Agency that it had inadvertently accepted a toxic chemical that the company is not authorized to store.

Maggie Lockwood, spokeswoman for Rep. Gerald "Jerry" Weller (R-Ill.), said future delays allow for time to fight more shipments.

"We certainly haven't exhausted all of the avenues to fight the napalm shipments," Lockwood said. "It doesn't mean we can't stop the second, third or fourth shipments."

Libya charges Reagan officials with 'premeditated murder'

Washington
Times
April 14, 1998
Pg. 13

TRIPOLI, Libya (Agence France-Presse) — Libya said yesterday it had opened legal proceedings against members of the Reagan administration for the 1986 U.S. air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi.

The late CIA Director William Casey and National Security Advisor John Poindexter were among those charged with "premeditated murder of 41 people," the government said in a statement issued by the JANA news agency.

Also accused were Poindexter aide Col. Oliver North; commander of the Sixth Fleet, Adm. Frank Kelso; and senior State Department official Robert Oakley, as well as two pilots and another

U.S. Air Force officer who carried out the raids.

They were also charged with the "premeditated attempted murder of a further 266 people," according to the statement carried by JANA.

U.S. warplanes struck targets in Tripoli and Benghazi on April 15, 1986, 10 days after the bombing of a nightclub in Berlin that killed two U.S. servicemen and a Turkish national.

Libyan sources say the retaliatory U.S. air strikes killed the adopted daughter of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and 40 other persons.

The chairman of the judges, Nuri Said, adjourned the hearing until Sept. 23 to allow time for the

"defendants to be informed," JANA reported. It said the accused were represented at the hearing by lawyers assigned by the court.

Three Germans, a Libyan and a Palestinian are currently on trial in Berlin, accused of having organized or carried out the attack on La Belle nightclub, which also injured more than 200 people.

Berlin magistrates are preparing a commission to hear evidence from seven Libyan nationals over the bombing.

Libya will declare tomorrow a day of mourning for the 1986 air raid. The national flag will fly at half-staff throughout the day and communications with the outside world will be cut for five minutes.

Wall Street Journal

April 14, 1998

Pg. 18

Turks Capture Key Kurdish Separatist; Army Rejects Rebels' Cease-Fire Call

By HUGH POPE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

ISTANBUL, Turkey—The Turkish armed forces widened their military advantage over ethnic Kurdish rebels yesterday by capturing the former No. 2 leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, the major separatist force. Senior Turkish officers also brushed aside recent PKK calls for a cease-fire, repeating their pledges to fight on until the organization was wiped out.

Semdin Sakik, known as "fingerless Zeki" after an accident with a rocket, had been one of the PKK's most deadly field commanders and Turkey's most wanted man since one of his units killed 33 unarmed soldiers in 1993. But last month he fell out with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, and went into hiding in northern Iraq.

Turkish army commandos yesterday pounced on Mr. Sakik from helicopters after he left a house where he was staying in the northern Iraqi town of Dahuk, not far from the Turkish border. Turkish officers say he and his brother Hasan, another PKK member, surrendered without a fight.

"It's one of our biggest successes" in the war, said Turkish armed forces spokesman Col. Husnu Dag. "The PKK is about to collapse. They have nobody left but children now."

That remains to be seen; the army has

declared victory prematurely before. The PKK, described as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department, launched an armed rebellion in 1984. Its aims have at times included founding an independent Kurdistan grouping all the ethnic Kurds of the Middle East. More than half of an estimated 25 million Kurds live in Turkey, the rest mostly in Iraq, Iran and Syria.

At its most powerful in 1990-1993, the PKK controlled large swathes of northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey. But an army crackdown since 1993 has whittled its 10,000-strong rebel force to what army officers say is now less than 1,000 militants. Total casualties since 1984 include 20,000 guerrillas, 4,600 soldiers and 4,500 civilians, Turkish officials say.

Shuttle will get a 'Top Gun' pilot

USA Today
April 14, 1998
Pg. 3

Scott Altman, who had a supporting role in the 1986 film *Top Gun*, will take center stage when the space shuttle Columbia lifts off Thursday from Kennedy Space Center.

Altman will pilot Columbia, a much bigger role than his job as one of the real pilots flying F-14 Tomcats in the Tom Cruise movie.

Altman flew the plane that Cruise's character, "Maverick," purposely zooms too close to a control

tower. Strictly movie fantasy, he says.

"Navy pilots just do not go around buzzing the tower," the 38-year-old lieutenant commander said. "If you did, you may as well take off your wings and drop them in the skipper's office ... (But) because it was Hollywood, I had to buzz it nine times. That was fun." The shuttle is his top job now, but Altman enjoyed working with Cruise. "He was a very neat guy, really motivated about flying," Altman said. "And he did fill his air-sickness bag."

Taiwan, China Agree to Preliminary Talks

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwanese negotiators said they will accept an invitation to visit China to prepare for possible talks to end a three-year freeze in relations.

Straits Exchange Foundation, a semiofficial organization set up by Taiwan to handle detente with China, said the invitation to low-level negotiators is for April 21-22.

China suspended talks with Taiwan in June 1995 in retaliation for Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States. China considered Lee's visit a sign that he was seeking international recognition for an independent Taiwan.

U.S. Urges Dialogue in Latvia-Russia Dispute

RIGA, Latvia—President Clinton has written to Latvian leader Guntis Ulmanis urging dialogue in the Baltic state's dispute with Moscow over the rights of its Russian-speaking residents.

"The letter says U.S. officials had spoken with the Russian government to see what was needed to renew a constructive dialogue between Russia and Latvia," Ulmanis's office said in a statement, quoting Clinton's letter.

Russia has launched a political campaign against Latvia's policy toward its large Russian minority, moving last week from words to deeds by cutting oil shipments to its small neighbor.

Washington Times
April 14, 1998 Pg. 13

Bay of Pigs pilot bodies found

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A U.S. Defense Department official said yesterday he had found two bodies believed to be those of anti-Castro Cuban pilots who crashed on their way to support the aborted 1961 invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

Bradley Adams of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory told reporters that three weeks of excavation work had uncovered human remains and personal effects.

"When we turned the wing over, there was a big 'FAR' on it," Mr. Adams said, referring to the Spanish acronym for the Cuban armed forces.

Aircraft bombing Cuba in 1961 as part of the failed invasion had Cuban insignia in order to confuse the Caribbean island's defenders, a U.S. Embassy source said.

Defense News April 13-19, 1998 Pg. 2

U.S. Navy Programs Show Largest Cost Drop

Of all the U.S. military services, Navy program costs decreased most dramatically in the quarter ending Dec. 31, according to the Defense Department's quarterly tally of program expenses.

Navy programs accounted for more than \$40 billion of the \$61 billion the military trimmed from its major acquisition programs in the previous quarter, according to the April 7 Selected Acquisition Reports.

The Navy's F/A-18 E/F program sustained the largest decrease, a cut of \$33.4 billion, or 42 percent.

Washington Times April 14, 1998 Pg. 13

Burmese army cited in torture of hundreds

LONDON — Burma's army has tortured hundreds of people from the Shan ethnic minority and forced at least 300,000 of them to flee their homes over the past two years, Amnesty International reported yesterday.

A statement issued by the London-based human rights

group quoted an Amnesty International delegate who visited the region as saying: "The vast majority of people we interviewed in Thailand lost relatives or friends who were killed by the Tatmadaw [Burmese army]."

Donna Guest, Amnesty's international researcher on Burma, said the victims included women, children, the elderly and Buddhist monks.

At Presstime

Talks between North and S. Korea collapse

BEIJING, April 14 (Reuters) - Talks between rivals North and S. Korea broke down today over Seoul's demand for concessions on reuniting separated Korean families as the price for fertilizer aid to its famine-stricken neighbour.

Chief negotiators from the two sides traded barbed comments after a final session failed to break a stalemate, each

blaming the other for the impasse.

Pyeongyang had called for the first high-level contact in four years to discuss a request for fertilizer to help with the spring crop planting.

But at the outset of the talks on Saturday, S. Korea linked aid to progress on political issues, particularly the question of reuniting families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War.

India says it will decide on nuclear weapons after defense review

NEW DELHI, April 14 (Reuters) - In-

dian Defense Minister George Fernandes said today that the government would decide whether to build nuclear weapons after a strategic defense review has been carried out.

"We will have a strategic defense review. If, at the end of the strategic defense review, we believe we have to exercise (our) option to have nuclear weapons, then (the) decision will have to be taken," Fernandes told a news conference.

Fernandes gave no details about the nature of the review or how long it was likely to take.

(Complete wire copy available at CNS)

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SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Carol Rippe ADMINISTRATION: Wendy Powers PRODUCTION: Defense Automated Printing Service (Room 3A1037)